Need to provide financial assistance to Bharat Ratna Shri Bismillah Khan

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY (Nominated): Madam, I seek your kind permission to bring to the notice of the House a very important and humanitarian subject that warrants immediate attention and prompt action. The august House is familiar with the unparalleled services of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan to the world of music. Of late, this doyen is in news for his difficult financial conditions. Khansaheb is not only one of the greatest musicians of our times, but also a noble patriot, a sincere householder and an ideal team leader. He never performed for money. He said recently, "My aim was not to earn money, but to popularise Indian classical- music". When his admirers urged him to settle in the USA, he observed, "Not, unless I can take my family, my musicians, my Banaras and the Ganges itself." Ustadji looks after about hundred members of his own and his brother's family. He pays to his musicians when they are out of work and to the widows and dependents of former musicians in his team. Madam, such a celebrity now lives in an indigent state in his ancestral 'haveli'. From a friend of mine who recently visited Ustadji, I gathered details of Khansaheb, who certainly needs financial support and also medical aid. The whole nation is proud of the achievements of Bismillah Khan. The Government should ensure that a celebrity like Khansaheb leads a comfortable life. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister - he has already given some donation; but that is not enough -- to take suitable measures and render adequate assistance so that this great son of India lives happily in his advanced age.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Madam, we associate ourselves with what the hon. Member has said. *...(Interruptions)...*

PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY (Bihar): Madam, the whole House associates itself with what has been mentioned. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री कलराज मिश्र (**उत्तर प्रदेश**) : महोदया, मैंयह कहूंगा कि प्रधानमंत्री जी ने स्वयं चिंता की है , उनको भेजा भी है , आर्थिक सहयोग भी दिया है और मैं समझता हूं कि जैसे इन्होंने और भी अपेक्षा की है , उस पर इस तरह की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए और लोग भी देते जा रहे हैं । **…**(**व्यवधान**)**…**

प्रो.राम देव भंडारी (**बिहार**) **:** प्रधानमंत्री जी ने नौकारी का वायदा किया था , वह नौकरी नहीं मिली है । **…** (**व्यवधान**)**…**

उपसभापति : देखिए , इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं हैं । सब लोग इससे सहमत हैं कि न सिर्फ बिस्मिल्ला खां साहब जिनके ऊपर हमे बहुत गौरव है , उनकी मदद हुई है और औरों की भी होनी चाहिए । इसी तरह हमारे और भी अच्छे आर्टिस्ट हैं जिन पर हम लोगों को ,भारत को बहुत नाज़ है । मैं सरकार से आग्रह करूंगी कि उन लोगों के लिए कोई एक स्कीम बना दें । उसके बारे में सरकार कोई विचार करे कि जो वे दौलत हमारे लिए छोड़ेगे , वह हमारी आने वाली नस्लों के लिए एक बहुत बड़ा कीमती खजाना होगा ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, the views expressed by all sections of the House on this serious issue have been taken note of, as also the suggestion given by Shri Kalraj Mishra. The Prime Minister has already taken note of this. But the sentiments of all sections of the House, the suggestions made here, as also the direction given by the Chair will be conveyed to the Government.

श्री बालकवि बैरागी (**मध्य प्रदेश**) :मैडम, मुझे एक बात कहनी है **...** (**व्यवधान**)**...**

उपसभापति : देखिए , चेयर की डासरेक्शन के बाद भी , अगर आपको और कुछ कहना है तो मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि मैं कौन सी जुबान इस्तेमाल करूं । **...(व्यवधान)...** मुझे लगता है कि मैंने हिन्दी में नहीं बोला इसलिए आप **...** (**व्यवधान**)**..** ।श्री शंकरर्लिगम ।

Need for implementation of Sethu Samudram Project in Tamil Nadu

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Madam, with great anguish, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a vexed and long-pending issue pertaining to the Sethu Samudram Project.

The idea of the Sethu Samudran Project was conceived in i860. Several expert committees had examined it. All the committees had recommended the project. Finally, a five-member committee headed by Thiru Lekshminarayan was set up to finalise the project, based on the above recommendations.

If this project is implemented, it will link the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean, reduce the distance between Tuticorin to Chennai by 434 miles, to Visakhapatnam by 376 miles, to Kolkata by 340 miles, and it would also result in giving a major economic boost to India, and particularly Tamil Nadu. The D.M.K. party has been raising this issue for the last fifty years.